

By: Senator(s) Chism, Sparks, McMahan,
Barnett

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE BALDWIN HIGH
2 SCHOOL BEARCATS FOOTBALL TEAM AND HEAD COACH MICHAEL GRAY FOR
3 WINNING THEIR FIRST MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
4 CLASS 1A CHAMPIONSHIP SINCE 2008.

5 WHEREAS, the Baldwin High School Bearcats Football Team could
6 not have asked for a worst start, but the ending was one to
7 remember. Behind a second half offensive surge along with a
8 defense that forced four turnovers, the Bearcats rallied past
9 Simmons 21-20 to claim the MHSAA Class 1A State Championship at
10 Southern Miss' M.M. Roberts Stadium on December 6, 2024; and

11 WHEREAS, it was Baldwin's second state title in school
12 history and its first since 2008; and

13 WHEREAS, "I told the seniors at halftime you have 24 minutes
14 to find a way to win this game and they did, and I couldn't be any
15 more proud of this bunch," said Baldwin coach Michael Gray. "It's
16 hard to get here, and we worked hard to get to this point. It's
17 an awesome feeling"; and

18 WHEREAS, Simmons scored the game's first points. After
19 Baldwin was forced to punt, Simmons extended their lead to 12-0.



20 Buchanan found Armani Strahan on a 9-yard touchdown pass with 29
21 seconds left before halftime. The Bearcats had 12 yards of
22 offense in the first half; and

23 WHEREAS, the third quarter was all Baldwyn. The Bearcats
24 scored on their opening drive of the second half on a Terrell
25 Robinson 1-yard touchdown run. After Simmons was forced to punt,
26 Dy'Lan Johnson dove into the end zone from 1-yard out to give the
27 Bearcats a 14-12 lead with 5:46 remaining in the third quarter.
28 Ashton Grice extended the Baldwyn lead to 21-12 on a 26-yard
29 interception return for a touchdown with 2:53 left in the third
30 quarter. Simmons answered, returning the ensuing kickoff 78 yards
31 for a touchdown, and a successful two-point conversion cut the
32 Baldwyn lead to 21-20 with 2:39 left in the third quarter; and

33 WHEREAS, after Baldwyn turned the ball over on downs at the
34 Simmons 8-yard line with 2:35 left in the fourth quarter, Simmons
35 drove to their own 44-yard line, but Colton Hayes intercepted a
36 pass at the Baldwyn 40-yard line with 45 seconds left to seal the
37 win. The Bearcat defense forced four turnovers, three
38 interceptions and a fumble, and held Simmons to just 151 yards of
39 total offense; and

40 WHEREAS, "When we scored our first touchdown it changed the
41 vibe for us, and the script flipped, and we were more physical,"
42 Gray said. "Defense was great and did what they did all year.
43 Defense wins championships and that's what happened." Johnson had
44 58 yards passing to lead Baldwyn. Linebacker Aiden Stewart was



45 named the game's MVP with 11 tackles, a sack, a tackle for loss,
46 and an interception for the Bearcats; and

47 WHEREAS, the Baldwyn High School 24-25 Varsity Football
48 Roster: Dy'lan Johnson, Marquez Davenport, Aidan Stewart, Ethan
49 Johnson, Colton Hayes, Gray Earnest, Caleb Tyes, Akeyo McGaha,
50 Tahj Bell, Calvin Price, Ashton Grice, Rush Watkins, Jourdan
51 Crump, Kmauryen Johnson, Eli Roper, Brandon Johnson, Terrell
52 Robinson, Braylan Hastings, Kalion Beene, Bradley Wicks, Ridge
53 Mask, Gavin Gamble, Dreson Stewart, Chanceton Price, Jamarious
54 Agnew, Isaac Allen, Jamarion Robinson, Easton Crump, Braxton
55 Stewart, Isaiah Gumm, Andre Bowens, K.J. Burt and Tyson Pugh.
56 Head Coach, Michael Gray, Assistant Coaches, Dru Allen, Neal
57 Allen, Jacob Harper, Nathan Watson and Statistician, Brad Tucker;
58 and

59 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these
60 outstanding Mississippi athletes who have brought honor to their
61 school, their community and to the State of Mississippi:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
64 Baldwyn High School Bearcats Football Team and Head Coach Michael
65 Gray for winning their first Mississippi High School Activities
66 Association Class 1A Championship since 2008, and extend our best
67 wishes to the team, coaches, parents, administration and sponsors
68 for future success.



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 Coach Michael Gray for the team, forwarded to Baldwyn Principal
71 Rickey Weaver and the Prentiss County Board of Education and made
72 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

